

Meeting of the CCSP Product 3.3 Committee on "Weather and Climate
Extremes in a Changing Climate"
Aspen Global Change Institute, Aspen, Colorado
June 25-28 , 2007

Monday, June 25

Dr. Christopher Miller, Designated Federal Officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Product Development Committee (CPDC) for Synthesis and Assessment Product 3.3 (CPDC – S&A 3.3) called this third FACA meeting to order at 4 pm. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the published agenda (http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/index.jsp?pg= ./ccsp/33_meetings.jsp).

Public Comment

There was no request from the public to make a comment or statement during the official public comment period.

Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to respond to the NRC comments on the first draft of the report and to initiate work to produce a second draft. Co-Chair Tom Karl reviewed the goals of the meeting and the procedures to be followed. Topics covered in his presentation included: (1) the cut-off date for publications to be referenced in the report (new material must be accepted for publication by Dec. 1); (2) general questions regarding production of the report; (3) the assignment of likelihood categories to statements/conclusions in the report; (4) schedule of remaining events in 2007-2008. Co-chair Jerry Meehl reviewed the main tasks that needed to be accomplished during the meeting, chief of which was to come away with finished versions of the abstract and executive summary, or as near-final as possible while attendees were present and could discuss wording and content at the meeting, to avoid having to do it later by email.

The group elected to schedule special breakout sessions for drought and tropical storms, both areas having been identified by the NRC as needing additional scrutiny in the report.

Tuesday, June 26

The Convening Lead Authors (CLAs) highlighted the outstanding issues and new material in their respective chapters. They also identified how the Lead Authors (LAs) in their chapters would address specific NRC comments.

A key issue was how to represent trends, both near-term and long-term. The earlier part of the record for several variables is subject to greater uncertainty because of data quality issues. The CLAs will work with committee member Richard Smith to determine when it is appropriate to apply statistical techniques to show statistical significance of trends.

There was extensive discussion of how well the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) represents the range of drought. Other indices were discussed (e.g., the Keetch-Byram Index for the potential of forest fires; Palmer's Z-index for short-term drought) and it was agreed that model output generated by Mike Wehner would be used to produce comparative estimates.

The validity of trends for tropical storm parameters was extensively discussed. Recent papers that have been, or will be, published will be examined by the authors before the second and third drafts of the report are produced to support statements on tropical storms.

Break-out sessions were held for the individual chapters to update key findings and recommendations and to formulate responses to the NRC comments. The editorial team consulted with the chapter authors on the figures for their chapters.

Wednesday, June 27

Breakout groups continued their work.

Thursday, June 28

The chapters' key points for inclusion in the executive summary were reviewed.

A revised version of the Executive Summary was reviewed in plenary to insure that the points in the ES are adequately "anchored" to text in the chapters, i.e., one-to-one correspondence. An updated report Abstract also was reviewed with the goal of conveying the major conclusions of the report in simple language and in no longer than one page.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Meeting Decisions and Actions

Assignments for responding to the NRC review were made by the individual CLAs.

The editorial staff will continue to work with the CLAs on the number and clarity of chapter figures.

The schedule for completion of the report (2007-2008) is as follows:

August 5: 2nd Draft and NRC review comments sent to Editorial and Graphics Team;

August 15: 2nd Draft and NRC review comment responses submitted to CCSP;

October 10: CLAs receive public comments for action/distribution to author team;

October 22 - 24: LA meeting (Asheville) to respond to public comments and revisions to be made in 3rd Draft;

December 20: 3rd Draft and compilation of public comment responses submitted to CCSP for posting and review;

January 15: CCSP Interagency Committee review of 3rd Draft completed;

January 31: CLAs/LAs respond to CCSP Principals' comments, if any, following teleconference discussion; report submitted to NSTC for final review and approval;

February 28: SAP 3.3 report on CCSP website;

April 15: SAP 3.3 report hardcopy published

